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HISTORY.

HISTORIA vero testis temporum, lux veritatis, vita memoriæ, magistra vitæ, nuntia vetustatis, qua voce alia, nisi Oratoris, immortalitati commendatur. CICERO DE ORATORE.

CHAPTER IV.

AT the time the cabinet of Great Britain first entertained the foolish and fatal purpose of tampering with the rights of her American Colonies, nothing was wanting to their situation, character and circumstances, which could render all experiments of that kind dangerous and hopeless of success, or give them a claim to the most tender, and even partial protection and encouragement of the mother country. If the violation of those rights which they enjoyed under the British constitution, could have been easily and successfully accomplished by political fraud, or by force of arms, policy as well as probity ought to have forbiden such an attempt. As an integral part of the vast empire to which they belonged, they were great and important; as subjects of taxation and sources of revenue, they could, when compared with the great whole, be but little and unproductive. The strength which they imparted, and the wealth which they poured into the treasury of the parent state were immense, and were felt in a two-fold way; as so much added to the means of England, and so much withheld from the stock of her ene-

mies. A comparison between what they actually produced, through the medium of agriculture, and unrestricted commerce, with all that could have been extorted from them by taxation, if they had so far degenerated from the spirit of their British ancestry, as to be passive under that mode of oppression, will of itself demonstrate the madness and wickedness of those ministers who attempted it. Indeed if every trace of what has ensued from the inauspicious counsels of that period, were to be dismissed from consideration, and the mind were to revert to and take its stand upon the spot on which the authors of that business stood, it would appear difficult to determine upon what principle, moral or political, or for what cause, adequate to so mighty an effect, they could contemplate, venture upon, or even imagine such an enterprize; on what grounds of justice or policy they could reconcile it to their own consciences or understandings, or how justify it to their country, which they so deeply injured, or to its sovereign whose confidence they so criminally abused.

For some time before the cabinet of England began its unfortunate experiments upon the temper of America, the Colonies had constituted a considerable part of the strength of the empire, and attracted the attention of all the politicians of Europe. The value and the quantity of their resources had enabled them to flourish under the pressure of all the calamities and distresses of a war with France, in which they had been immediately concerned; and when the peace of 1763, gave them breathing time, their great natural advantages soon repaired the ravages and depredations committed by the French troops, and their allies the native savages. Their population had increased in a ratio hardly to be calculated; their prosperity much more than kept pace with their population; and, abounding with sagacious, spirited, and active individuals of all denominations, flushed with just national pride and exultation, founded upon their prosperous condition, their thriving commerce, and their success

in military transactions, they presented to the British government as gratifying a sight, as the eye of wisdom or virtue could wish to dwell upon: An object of magnitude and force sufficient, on the one hand, to tempt sound policy to foster and retain it in its embrace, and on the other to deter the most rash and adventurous administration from running a risk of provoking it. The increase and improvements in the population, agriculture, and commerce of America, and its consequent wealth, though not so rapid as those which have followed the revolution, far exceeded any thing before that time heard of; and had become a subject at once, of just exultation to the mother country, of envy and jealousy to her European rivals, and of admiration and astonishment to the world. "Such (said the greatest philosopher, politician and orator of the age,)* such is the strength with which population shoots in that part of the world, that state the numbers as high as we will, whilst the dispute continues, the exaggeration ends. Whilst we are discussing any given magnitude, they are grown to it. Whilst we spend our time in deliberating on the mode of governing two millions, we shall find we have millions more to manage. Your children do not grow faster from infancy to manhood than they spread from families to communities, and from villages to nations." "And the commerce of your colonies (continues he) is out of all proportion beyond the numbers of the people."

From the year 1704 to the year 1772 (a period of little more than half a century) the export trade of England to the American Colonies had increased from five hundred thousand pounds, to six million sterling a year; was, at the latter period, greater than the commerce of the whole world, the Colonies themselves included, had been to Great Britain at the beginning of the century; and was considerably more than one third of the whole commerce of that country

* See BURKE's speech for conciliation with America, in March 22, 1775.

at that time. Sixteen millions, being then, the whole yearly amount of the commerce of Great Britain, of which she was indebted for six to her American Colonies. Pennsylvania alone, which in the year 1704 took little less than 11,000 pounds worth of commodities from England, took in 1772, considerably more than half a million. This gave occasion to that beautiful expression of the orator just mentioned, "when we speak of the commerce of our Colonies fiction lags after truth, invention is unfruitful, and imagination cold and barren." In agriculture the improvement and increase was such, that the Old World had been, for some years, fed upon the New, which in the beginning of the century was obliged to import corn from the mother country. "The scarcity you have lately felt (says BURKE, in the forementioned speech) would have been a desolating famine; if this child of your old age, with a true filial piety, with a Roman charity, had not put the full breast of its youthful exuberance to the mouth of its exhausted parent."*

It would be depriving this important subject of its just rights, if, in furnishing the wonderful and gratifying picture of early grandeur, and almost precocious prosperity, which this happy country presented to the eyes of the world the day before the revolutionary contest began, to attempt it with an inferior pencil, while it can be exhibited as pourtrayed by the incomparable political philosopher and orator already mentioned, whose sagacity and eloquence threw a light upon the subject at that time, which will never be extinguished, so long as the light of reason shall irradiate the mind of man; whose predictions respecting it though then slighted, have to a tittle been verified; and whose opinions and principles laid down on that occasion, have, ever since the conclusion which justified them, been held as high authority by Parliament. After having described the increase of population, and improve-

* The annual export of grain, rice included, from America, even at that time (1772) exceeded a million in value.

ment in agriculture of the Colonies, he comes to their wealth, and says: "As to the wealth which the Colonies have drawn from the sea by their fisheries you have had all that matter fully opened at your bar. You surely thought those acquisitions of value, for they seemed even to excite your envy; and yet the spirit, by which that enterprising employment has been exercised, ought rather in my opinion, to have raised your esteem and admiration. And pray, what in the world is equal to it? Pass by the other parts, and look at the manner in which the people of New England have of late carried on the whale fishery. Whilst we follow them amongst the tumbling mountains of ice, and behold them penetrating into the deepest frozen recesses of Hudson's Bay, and Davis' Streights; whilst we are looking for them beneath the Arctic circle, we hear that they have pierced into the opposite region of Polar cold, that they are at the Antipodes, and engaged under the frozen serpent of the south. Faulkland Island which seemed too remote, and romantic an object for the grasp of national ambition, is but a stage and resting place in the progress of their victorious industry. Nor is the Equinoctial heat more discouraging to them than the accumulated winter of both Poles. We know that whilst some of them draw the line and strike the harpoon on the coast of Africa, others run the longitude, and pursue the gigantic game along the coast of Brazil. No sea but what is vexed by their fisheries; no climate that is not witness to their toils. Neither the perseverance of Holland, nor the activity of France, nor the dexterous and firm sagacity of English enterprise, ever carried this most perilous mode of hardy industry, to the extent to which it has been pushed by this recent people; a people who are still, as it were, but in the gristle, and not yet hardened into the bone of manhood."

Such was the actual value of the American Colonies to England in the year 1772, and such were the hopes which its daily growing increase presented to her. To those may be

added their assistance in time of war ; their harbours, provisions and materials for repair, open to her shipping and shut against that of her enemies. Impregnable to the north by the conquest of Canada, the Southern Provinces opened a wide and level road, over which the collected force of the country could pour into, and take possession of the opulent possessions of Spain and France, which lay in contiguity to them. The Western Hemisphere might be said to lie under the range of British guns, and the then overbearing power of the house of Bourbon, uniting the forces of the French and Spanish monarchies, under the famed family compact, could at any time be checked or annihilated in those affluent sources of commerce and wealth, the West India islands. Nor was this all. The emigrants from Ireland and Scotland who by becoming citizens of America, now exhaust the British Empire of so much of its maritime and military strength, would still be its own, changing only their place of residence; and the difficulties which already begin to shew themselves, and to throw embarassments before unknown, in the way of her manning her navy,would never have arisen. Though this be not a place for dicussing the right of a commonwealth to impress her citizens into her defence in time of danger, a thing that can be considered as defensible only from public necessity, to which all private consideration must give way, and as warranted only by its being, as lord CHATHAM termed it, the *Consuetudo Regni*, it cannot be thought a departure from the direct march of this work, when insisting upon the advantages which England derived, and promised to derive from a perpetual union with America, and which she has lost by the revolution, to state the obstruction which the independence of those states, resulting from that revolution, must throw in the way of impressing seamen. And it is dwelt upon here, because it seems to us to contain in it the germ of more mischief than the advocates for American taxation, were at that day, or the degraded fragments of them at this, seem to be aware of.

Having considered the subject upon the simple point of the value, which the Colonies of America were to England, and with wonder contemplated the madness of putting such advantages to hazard, the next subject of inquiry is, whether there was any thing peculiarly belonging to the people, their condition, their habits, or their temper, either, on the one hand, to induce them to resist the fair, legal, and constitutional claims of the parent state, or on the other, to furnish reasonable motives to the British cabinet, to expect that they would be passive under oppression, or submit to be placed upon a constitutional footing inferior to the inhabitants of the other part of the British Empire, or to be put out of the pale of the chartered rights of their British ancestors. To the first of these points the description of the happy condition of the Colonists may be considered as a complete answer; yet there were other circumstances attending them at the time, which lay claim to consideration. Their improvements in all the necessary and useful arts; their industry in cultivating, not only those, but the higher branches of learning and science; their wise and careful provisions, and liberal establishments for the improvement of their own minds, and for the education of their rising progeny; the excellent arrangements of their internal police; the regulations of their internal commerce; the turn and temper for arduous enterprises, new discoveries, useful schemes, and projects, that distinguished them; their ingenuity, which keeping pace with their occasions, as they first arose, displayed itself conspicuously in mechanics; all those taken together, bespeak a class of intellect and a mode of exercising it, little to be suspected of rashness and inconsiderate decision; and not at all likely to commit such a state of felicity and comfort as they then possessed, to the uncertain decision of the sword, or to hazard it in a contest with the greatest power upon earth, upon light, trivial or unjust grounds, or in fact on any grounds but those of urgent necessity. The highest reach to which the hopes of the most sanguine in-

novator could at that time have aspired, was, at most, to some speculative, hypothetical advantage, undefined in its nature and consequences, uncertain of attainment, and subject at last to innumerable casualties; while the advantages they possessed were certain. The dangers, difficulties and hardships to be encountered in the execution of such a tremendous enterprize as that of striving to shake off their dependence on Great Britain, were too obvious to escape the forethought of men, naturally sagacious, and very much enlightened; and were too awful to allow a people not a little remarkable for discretion, penetrating minds, and cool deliberative temper, to plunge, unforced, into an experiment, by success in which they could, according to the aspect of things at that time, have hoped to gain but little, and by a failure in which they must inevitably have forfeited every thing.

Were facts therefore wanting to demonstrate that the resistance of America to the authority of the British government was compulsory, and rendered inevitable by the wantonness and intemperance of the British ministers of that day, ample proof of it would arise from the nature and condition of the Colonists themselves. Taking it for granted then that the Cabinet of St. James's had sophisticated itself into a persuasion, that it was just to tax by acts of a British Parliament, two millions of Britons unrepresented, even by specious form, in that parliament, and that the revenue to be derived from it was of such consequence as to atone for their own direliction of principle, and for the disaffection and private grudge it would probably occasion in the hearts of the Colonists, it still remains to be considered, what there was in the character of the Britons of the New World which could flatter them with the hope, that such alarming measures could escape their jealousy and indignation, or fail to excite, that which to their cost they afterwards found it did excite, a general spirit of resistance with arms; a bloody war; a revolution.

Mankind in general are pretty nearly alike in the natural state of their feelings, faculties and endowments: here and there individual are found pushed forward by nature in strong and marked prominence from the common level of the species; but in ordinary, any material difference between one community and others arises from the circumstances in which they have been placed, the trials to which they have been exposed, the scenes in which they have been fated to act, and the conduct of those who act along with them. The tendencies which they thus receive are not only forwarded and encouraged by imitation and example, but handed down with increase from age to age, till they become from long habit and the nurture of opinion, so interwoven in the fabric of the hearts and minds of the society to which they belong, as to assume the appearance of, and operate as if they were bents and dispositions bestowed by nature. It is scarcely to be doubted that a tolerable estimate might be made of the character of a people from an accurate account of their origin, their situation, and the circumstances in which they have been from infancy placed; and if there were no traces left of the particular actions of the Anglo-Americans, posterity would be told by the philosophers of future times, that it was evident from their origin, from the character and temper of their forefathers, from their motives for leaving home, and traversing an immense ocean in order to find a dwelling in a strange and distant land, and from the circumstances attending their emigration and settlement in a country, at that time, deadly and inhospitable, that a love of freedom was the predominating feature of their character.

Since it is from the character of the temper and mind of a people as exhibited in their conduct under the fluctuations of condition to which they have been exposed, that prognostications are to be taken of what they will be likely to do in future, and motives are to be assgned for their actions, it would be injurious to omit, now that we are upon the subject, any circumstance however remotely or slenderly con-

nected with the American Colonists. In things that are not matters of physical certainty, but, created and influenced by opinion, there are many causes, which from the uncertainty and obscurity of their operation, are noticed by few, are difficult to trace, and till very closely and minutely examined, exhibit very little mark of connection with the objects on which they produce their effect; but which, nevertheless, contribute their share with the more visible and proximate causes in influencing them. Between the discernable efficiency of causes and their known operation, there is frequently so great a disproportion, that the mind is apt either to overlook them intirely, or to feel disinclined to assign them any effect at all. In matters that are the mere production of the human mind men are often worked upon by circumstances, that seem, at the time, to be of the most trivial kind; the ideas, which though separately inoperative, when associated, make up that vast combination of mind, temper, disposition and manners, which confirmed by habit, constitutes what is called the character of a people, are always derived from an infinite variety of scattered perceptions, that singly, have perhaps, affected but little, and seemed scarcely to deserve notice, but are involuntarily collected and treasured up by the mind and formed into one great sum of opinion, that sways us through life. It is not a little remarkable, and probably may have had its share of influence upon the minds of those, who from the earliest times contemplated America, that every great stage of its progress has been accompanied with circumstances favourable to the freedom of mankind, and to the interests of the human race. Its first discovery by COLUMBUS, together with that of the passage to the East Indies, by VASCO DE GAMA, which happened shortly after it, were followed by consequences of the greatest importance to all the nations of Europe, as well to those who were not immediately concerned in those naval enterprizes, as to those who were. The extension of navigation, and the enlargement

of commerce, gave a new and more elastic spring to industry, and produced a sudden improvement, and immense increase in the arts. The nobles, having, under the influence of increased luxury, acquired the habit of wasting their estates, and dissipating their property in extravagance, intemperance and expensive pleasures, afforded room to persons of inferior rank, who had grown opulent by arts and industry, to acquire a share in the landed property in their country, and to create for themselves large possessions of a kind before unknown, that is to say, in stock, in commodities, in arts, credit and correspondence. In some of the European nations, this accession of property in persons, who before were held to be of a lower order, raised them to a great degree of weight and influence in the state ; and thus the privileges of the commons were extended, in proportion to the increase of their wealth. In most of them, the barons, who being greatly refined and improved by the general revolution in manners and habits of living, could no longer endure their former rude, uncomfortable and turbulent mode of life, laid aside their arms ; and the kings perceiving it, took advantage of the opportunity it afforded them of establishing standing armies, by means of whom they subdued the liberties of the people from the dominion of the barons, and placed them under their own ; by which their condition is on all hands allowed to have been considerably bettered ; since they were thereby relieved from the depression of a multitude of petty tyrants, by whom they had ever before been oppressed, rather than governed ; and acquired, if not positive entire liberty, at least a very considerable share of the advantages of it ; in the progress of subsequent events, the power and despotism of the nobles, were thus depressed, and the commons, that is to say the people, were elevated more nearly to a level with them. History which sometimes loves to dress favourite characters in splendor not truly their own, has given to the institutions and wisdom of HENRY the VIIth, the praise of having brought about this happy

change in the condition of the people, while the fact is, that the highest merit to which his character can, strictly speaking, lay claim, is that of having adopted a happy system of policy with which he was furnished, by the natural operations of those new discoveries, upon the minds and habits of mankind. Nor was the time appointed by Providence for those discoveries less auspicious than the discoveries themselves, which coming quickly upon the heels of some of the most memorable, important, and useful events in history, that had but lately distinguished the age, improved and turned them to advantage. The Greeks who had been scattered and routed by the Turks, at the taking of Constantinople by those Barbarians, having taken refuge in Italy, carried with them thither their admirable language, together with their science, and refined taste in poetry and eloquence. The purity of the Latin language had but just revived; the study of antiquity had become fashionable; a passionate love of literature had begun to extend itself over Europe, and the progress of those improvements was considerably forwarded, and facilitated by the art of Printing.

Thus it appears, that the first discovery of the New World was ushered in with circumstances which speedily led to a general and fortunate revolution in human affairs, in Europe, and from which men have gradually attained that situation, with regard to each other, and that advancement in arts, sciences, government, commerce and police, which they have since persevered in improving up to the state in which we now see it; and at which period, to adopt the opinion of Mr. HUME, the useful, as well as more agreeable part of modern annals, has its commencement, and certainty has place in the considerable and most minute parts of historical narration.

Such considerations may reasonably be supposed to have imparted to all who contemplated America, a considerable share of partiality and respect for that quarter of the world; and to have given a habit of combining with it,

ideas of improvement in the condition of man, of freedom, and of independence, and thereby to have communicated the bold spirit with which a sense of man's natural rights have a tendency to inspire the human bosom. Perhaps this very thing may have had a share in exciting that jealousy and abhorrence of arbitrary power, which afterwards began to shew itself in England, in the reign of JAMES the Ist. which encouraged it by pointing to America as a refuge from tyranny till it became the predominant passion of *Englishmen*, and contributed to influence them to the ardent rage for liberty which has distinguished that people, giving them the lead they have long had in Europe, and after a variety of struggles between privilege and prerogative extended through a range of upwards of eighty years, ending in that glorious event, the revolution of 1688.

It was in the feuds and struggles which terminated so fortunately in the establishment of British freedom, that the spirit of emigration, generated by hardihood upon the love of freedom, filled the bosoms of numbers of noble minded Britons, and inspired them with a resolution to brave every danger and hardship, in pursuit of that darling object of their affections, liberty. Englishmen always passionately attached to freedom, had, during those contests, arrived to the highest pitch of enthusiasm in that glorious cause. Of those the sect commonly called Puritans, were among the most zealous and most determined. To the warm love of civil freedom, common to their countrymen, they added enthusiastic ardour in the cause of religious liberty. This was increased by the severities exercised against them. The more they were treated with intolerance, the more firm they became, and the further they carried their opposition to the doctrines of the monarchists, and to the tenets of the hierarchy. Their zeal, which it must be owned, was greater than their policy, was too violent to escape the jealous bigotry and cruelty of queen MARY; they therefore had fled abroad, to escape persecution, but returned to

England in the reign of queen ELIZABETH, exasperated by their sufferings, and by the perpetual disputations in which they were continually employed while abroad; filled with an aversion to Episcopacy, to religious ceremonies, and to external rites and observances, and teeming with an ardent spirit of liberty, and a strong prejudice in favour of republican government. ELIZABETH who was warmly impatient of every thing that looked like opposition, treated them, during her reign, with inflexible and unrelenting severity; but though she kept them down, she could not destroy them. The persecutions of JAMES, but exasperated them more, while his impolicy kept them powerful. And his conduct served only to shew the weakness, and disclose the bad intentions of government towards them. In the reign of CHARLES the Ist. the indiscreet zeal and severities of bishop LAUD, who persecuted them for nonconformity, and introduced ceremonies of a new, useless, and even ridiculous nature, upon men already so abhorrent of the most necessary ceremonies, made their sufferings appear more grievous, raised for them many friends, and excited in them a new spirit, not of terror as before, but of indignant hatred, and a determination to fly to any part of the world rather than submit to such intolerant persecution.—Qualities in themselves apparently vicious, are frequently of good effect, if accidentally thrown into the proper road and in many cases as productive as any other of fortunate results; those qualities particularly, which, however vicious, are tissued with vigour of soul and magnanimity, never fail to operate with great potency, to effects of good or evil, according to their application and direction, and rarely fail ultimately to command admiration. Firmness of resolution, and inflexibility of spirit, according to the cause in which they happen to be exercised, whether as fortitude in a good cause, or stubborness in a bad, whether as bravery or obstinacy, betoken powers in the posses-

sor, convertible to great and useful purposes. Such were the characteristic qualities of those Britons who first peopled America, and who amidst the absurdities of their notions, and extravagance of their conduct in spiritual matters, were not wanting of prudence in temporal concerns; who though themselves abundantly severe and resolutely despotic in enforcing religious duties, were excessively averse to political controul; whose spirit was not to be condemned, though their fanaticism might be ridiculed; who would hazard their lives in resistance to political tyranny, while they would not only inflict corporal punishment upon, but anathematize as an impious violator of the laws of God, any man who should be guilty of the crime of wearing his hair long; and who, whether their tenets or opinions were right or wrong, rational or ridiculous, maintained them with such inflexible resolution, such unalterable constancy, such undaunted boldness, and indefatigable vigour, that he must be but a frigid philosopher who could contemplate their character without respect, and be more foolish, or more hardy than ordinary men who could slight them as enemies.

Such were the qualities with which the Puritans left England, encountered the perils of an ocean, then but a few times tried by navigators, and took refuge in America, in order to avoid a tyranny, the utmost effects of which must, with regard to mere corporal suffering, have been comfort, when compared to the hardships they had inevitably to experience, but which, as they considered it to be an enslaving of the mind and conscience, they abhorred and resolved to escape, at the expence of any thing, however great, which it might happen to cost them.

This temper so far from being weakened by their distance from Europe, acquired strength from the circumstances of danger, hardship and privation to which they were exposed. The distresses and difficulties of a voyage by sea, at that time, can scarcely be conceived because they are little if at

all known at this. Exposed as they must be to all the sufferings which want of accommodation, and to all the fatigues and dangers which the comparative want of skill in maritime affairs, at that day, must have occasioned in the voyage alone, was such a prospect as would deter any but the most intrepid hearts from the enterprise; but those were little, when compared with that which they had to encounter when arrived, in an unknown country, wholly uncultivated, covered with wood, full of unwholesome swamps, and inhabited by ruthless and revengeful savages: a country, too, where the greatest part of every year was consumed in a winter no less severe in cold, than tedious in duration, and which locked up the earth from the hands of husbandry, and the coast in mountains of ice, for full seven months. To have contemplated in prospective, such a hideous scene, and for the sake of political, or religious dogmas to brave their horrors, to overcome them, and at last to gain a victory over such obstructions, and make nature herself bend to their firm resolves, and energetic, strenuous industry, may be considered as all together forming a phœnomenon which makes an æra in the history of man.

The same enthusiasm, which, under the regimen of that day, was, in England, overturning every thing, proved in America of great use. It communicated to the emigrants, those wonderful energies of mind and body which enabled them to triumph over all obstructions, and to draw from an inhospitable, savage country, at once, a tolerable support, soon a comfortable livelihood, and ultimately, immense affluence, with the refinement and luxuries usually consequent to wealth. Under their worst hardships, and most severe trials, they were comforted with the bare reflection, that they were out of the reach of the spiritual arms, and had got from under the dominion of the episcopal hierarchy.

The subject of the first New England settlers is thus particularly dwelled upon, because it was chiefly in them the

seeds were sown of that spirit and the rudiments of that great people, which time unfolded to the world in unexpected magnitude, and which it is not assuming too much to say, will one time or other, be the greatest that has ever been known upon earth; and because it is our business to examine the character of the Anglo-American people, to analize and trace it through all its constituent parts, back to its original springs, and thence to bring it forward and exhibit it as it stood on the day, when the cabinet of England formed the erroneous conception, that it could oppress them at will.

By those sons of hardihood and enthusiasm, was New England first peopled. Virginia had been settled long before; and part of the intermediate country, was in the time which elapsed between the settlement of the one and the other, planted by Swedes and Dutch; people less enthusiastic, but not less resolute and hardy than their neighbouring settlers. To the southward of those, a few hundred of refugees and indigent families, directed and aided by the wisdom of its founder, WILLIAM PENN, and his wonderful talents as a legislator, soon rose to a flourishing community, which by its justice and moderation, continued to effect, with unarmed hands, and passive principles, more than others had done by policy and arms, and established a commonwealth upon the basis of perfect freedom, civil and religious.

The passionate love of freedom which animated and supported the original settlers, under hardships and difficulties, that would have cooled the zeal of men less enthusiastic than themselves, was not likely to suffer diminution in descent from them to their children, or to abate when they began to taste the happy fruits of their labours. On the contrary, time as it passed, constantly contributed to increase its vigour, while it lopped off its luxuriencies; and to make the root strike deeper into the earth, and produce more abundantly, by trimming the straggling branches, and concen-

trating in its proper part, the sap which nourished the whole. As fanaticism decreased they became more tolerant, and as increasing knowledge and enlightenment rectified the errors of their notions in spiritual matters, and superstition began to give ear to reason, as well as to faith, their firmness in the rational parts of their civil and religious schemes acquired new vigour, and being compressed in space, encreased in force and elasticity. In proportion as they perceived their importance to Great Britain enlarged, and became sensible of their own value, the sense of their own dignity swelled in correspondent proportion. They knew that the mother country derived immense benefit from them, and they justly considered themselves entitled to every kindness and indulgence which she could bestow. They did not yet aspire to an equality of commercial privileges, but in matters of government they felt themselves competent to the task of conducting their domestic concerns, without the interference of England; and though willing to admit the supremacy of Great Britain, they kept the exercise of that power, under the watch of a very jealous caution and suspicious vigilance. Thus informed with the great spirit of their illustrious free ancestors, sublimated to a greater height by a variety of circumstances, to which Englishmen at home were not exposed; and devoted to liberty, "upon English ideas and English principles,"* their national spirit gained daily confirmation from the very form of their own provincial governments, which were popular in the highest degree, and from their religion, which is more than any other, adverse to implicit submission of mind and opinion. Sprung up in direct opposition to all the ordinary powers of the world, the dissenters could neither justify nor maintain that opposition, but by strong claims to natural liberty; and by the strenuous and unremitted exertion of those claims. Split into a variety of sects, they had as a common bond of union and

* Burke.

agreement, but one thing, and that was the spirit of liberty. This the Colonists carried with them from England ; and even the emigrants, whichpoured in full streams from other parts of Europe into America, were, generally speaking, dissenters from the establishment of their several countries, and carried with them there, a temper and character much resembling those of the people with whom they went to associate.

It is true, that the operation of that powerful agent, the dissenting principle, was of but little, if any force in the southern provinces, where a large portion of the people were of the church of England, and where that religion had a regular establishment; but that want was supplied, and fully counterbalanced by the dominion of the settlers over their slaves, which rendered the spirit of liberty, still more high and overbearing among them, than among those to the northward. " Where property in slaves is allowed, those who are free, are by far the most proud and jealous of their freedom. Freedom is to them not only an enjoyment, but a kind of a rank and privilege. Not seeing there, that freedom, as in countries where it is a common blessing, and as broad and general as the air, may be united with much abject toil, with great misery, with all the exterior of servitude, liberty looks amongst them, like something that is more noble and liberal, and those people of the southern provinces, were at least as strongly, and with as high and stubborn a spirit attached to liberty as those to the northward. In such a people, the haughtiness of domination combined with the spirit of freedom, fortifies it, and renders it invincible."*

Such was the nature, temper and disposition of two millions of people, over whom the British cabinet of that day, hoped to exercise the rigours of despotism, and to enforce the exaction of an oppressive and unpalatable tax by force of arms. Nor was this all. Three thousand miles of an ocean, with all its delays, disappointments and perils, stood

* Burke's speech on conciliation, March 1775.

between them, and must be passed before coercion could be attempted; while the persons to be assailed, possessed the advantages of fighting on their own ground, in defence of their own hearths. In a word, whether the Colonists of that day are considered with reference to their descent, to their form of government, to their religion in the northern provinces, and to their manners in the southern, to their education, to the remoteness of their situation from the great seat of British government, and to the fierce spirit of liberty generated by all those circumstances, and inflamed to pride by the vigour and prosperity of their country, what is stated in the outset of this chapter, must be admitted to be correct, and is therefore repeated, namely, that nothing was wanting to the situation, character and circumstances of the American Colonies, which could render any severe experiments, or tamperings with their rights, dangerous and hopeless of success, and give them a claim to the most tender and even partial protection and encouragement from the mother country. The issue of the attempt has shewn this. It is only astonishing that a cabinet, composed of the ordinary qualifications for governing a country, could have failed to foresee it. Or that the people of England could have been so misled as to suffer it to be done, or to let the authors of it at last escape with impunity.

Historical truth imperiously demands, that when extraordinary events, which greatly affect the condition of mankind, have taken place; the persons by whose influence and agency they have been effected, together with the share they had in them, be commemorated, that they may receive from posterity the meed of merit, if they have done well, or if ill, that the odium attached to their conduct may not fall upon others, who are innocent. To the same cabinet which occasioned, or at least accelerated the separation of America from Great Britain, England may be said to owe all the misfortunes that have befallen her, in the reign of the present sovereign, which have been so great, that it may be questioned,

whether they have been balanced by the signal benefits, the morals of that people, through all its classes, have derived from the splendid example of his domestic virtues.*

In order to trace the motives of that administration, and the means by which they contrived to subdue the people of England, into that kind of acquiescence with their conduct, which may to some have looked like assent, and which their partisans have sometimes pronounced to be positive approbation, it will be necessary to take a glance backward into the political situation of Great Britain, and the history of her cabinet. A remnant of the junto that formed it still remains, and has never ceased to this day to influence the sovereign and his councils: How far the late detection of one of its members, in a transaction of a very ignoble and unpardonable nature, may tend to shake it from its hold on the virtuous old monarch's heart, time alone can tell. It may however be very safely concluded, that considering the state of that country, the urgency of its domestic affairs, the turn of public sentiment, the danger that threatens from abroad, and the age of the king, the time that set of men can possibly remain in power, will not be sufficiently long to afford it the means of making any considerable attonement for the mischiefs they have done; supposing, which is little likely to happen, that they should be disposed to adopt new maxims of government, and to act upon a different system from that by which they so deeply injured that country.

* An elegant author of the present day, not very partial to Geo. the IIId, speaks of him thus. "In the life and conduct of George the IIId, it seems difficult at first glance, to detect the ruling passion, or binding principles of his actions One sees, it is true, much to praise. He sets an example of the houshold virtues, which has given a fashion to the conjugal affection; and thus has preserved and increased domestic happiness among innumerrble families in the empire. He displays great frugality, which in a prince who is hourly called upon to give, yet has only the property of his subjects to bestow, is a most difficult and meritorious quality; a frugality too, the parent of order and œconomy among the imitative higher ranks of landed and commercial opulence, and thus a source of regular gain, and punctual payment to a vast mass of industry."

CHAPTER V.

HISTORY OF THE PASSING TIMES.

BILL REGULATING THE CLEARANCE OF ARMED VESSELS.

[Continned from page 31.]

To the passing of this Bill there were made many objections, grounded upon the necessities of defence to our commerce. The Chamber of Commerce of Philadelphia, and that of New York, also presented memorials against it; and in Congress some members opposed the passing of the bill upon several grounds. They said that the number of armed French vessels, which, having, or pretending to have commissions or letters of marque, were constantly cruising in the West India seas, captured and plundered unarmed Americans, without regard to their destination, to the nature of their cargo, or the rights of neutrality. That it therefore became absolutely necessary, either to give to our commerce in that quarter public protection, by national vessels of war, or to suffer our merchants to equip their ships, so as to be able to prevent those depredations. That the trade along the west coast of Africa, in the Pacific Ocean, and on the North West Coast of America, could not be carried on with safety, without our trading vessels being armed. That preventing American vessels from going from any other country to the West Indies, would deprive America of some very valuable branches of commerce, which they then enjoyed; voyages from the Mediterranean to the West Indies being frequent and profitable, and the vessels from the East Indies, often finding an advantageous market there for part of their cargoes. Against the forfeiture of the vessel or cargo, it was objected,

that it would leave the innocent owner subject to the jurisdiction and misconduct of a commander or his crew. They stated that the sufferings of American commerce from the depredations of European nations, in the last war, were far beyond the compensation obtained for them, and said that the fact of their receiving no protection from government, pointed out the necessity of self defence: More particularly because since the evacuation of St. Domingo by the French, privateers had poured forth in shoals from the Spanish ports of that island, and from Cuba, which captured, robbed and harrassed our vessels in their ordinary and lawful course of commerce: Besides which, a lawless banditti, owning the control of no lawful or acknowledged government, which had for some time pillaged and committed the most wanton abuses on our vessels, encouraged by the defenceless state of our trade, would multiply, and become more ferocious among our commerce, and cause a very mischievous change in our relations with the Indigenous inhabitants of St. Domingo. Touching our relations to other nations, they said it was not our duty, nor was it the usage of neutral nations, to enforce by legal sanction the rules, or provide for the purposes which it was the object of this law to provide; that power belonging to regular tribunals established by the belligerent nations, without which no nation could justly authorise the capture or detention of neutral vessels; and that if Spain should, as was very likely, become a party in the existing war, the danger to our commerce would be increased. They argued, that under all the legitimate governments of St. Domingo, our trade had not only been permitted, but invited and encouraged; that several of our citizens having debts and property in the island, were obliged to remain there, and ought not to be abandoned; that therefore the trade was peaceably carried on till interrupted by the armed freebooters of Cuba, into the ports of which, many of our vessels were carried, their cargoes landed in the night, the vessels sent out of the harbours,

scuttled and sunk, to prevent detection. The question then was, whether we were to abandon the trade altogether, and sacrifice our property in St. Domingo, or arm our merchant ships to defend them. It was stated moreover, that the Insurance offices of Baltimore alone, had lost about half a million of dollars by those depredations.

On the other hand, it was contended in support of the bill, that the peace and general interest of the United States, their duty as neutrals, and their relation to foreign nations, imperiously called for these restrictions, which were not at all extended beyond the necessity of the case. That it was impossible for us to conceal it from ourselves, that the purpose for which a vast number of our vessels resorted to the French West Indies, was a trade illicit and unjust, as respecting the rights of foreign nations; and that the liberty of arming our merchant vessels afforded, to those who chose to venture upon such enterprises, the means, under false appearances, to protect the property of one belligerent power from another; to furnish them with military stores, and articles contraband of war; to force their way into ports in a state of blockade, and contrary to the laws of nations to supply the coloured people of St. Domingo, who were known to be in a state of insurrection against France, with the means of hostility to that country. That it was highly unjust, and impolitic, and dangerous to let loose a number of vessels armed at will, upon the ocean, to act as whim, caprice, fraud, violence or avarice might suggest, under the flag of the union. The bill, they observed, did not go to deprive an American sailor of the right of self-defence, it only prevented him from being the aggressor. The law furnished remedies of the same kind for land, and the temptation to violate right and property at sea, were still greater than those on shore, as the weaker vessel becoming the prey to the stronger, concealment and consequent impunity were easily accomplished, and that impunity was a

stronger inducement to men to run the risk. That to let our innumerable vessels go out armed would amount to the crime of covering the ocean with an armed banditti, which would bring down upon the United States, not only the merited contempt, but the just indignation of all Europe. The supporters of the bill said, that superior skill and industry in navigation and commerce, were the constituents of character, which they hoped would belong to, and wished to encourage and cultivate in American sailors. To keep their hands clean of fraud, violence or pillage was their duty: and if refraining from the latter, our ships should in the fair exercise of the former, be opposed, insulted, or oppressed, administration would not only at once extend protection to their rights, but avenge their wrongs. Armed as they should then be with justice, and with the consciousness of moderation in their conduct they could demand satisfaction and retribution with a firmer and more dignified tone; and it would then be seen that the arm of the United States was long enough to reach the Carribbean as well as Mediterranean seas, and strong enough to right the wrongs of its citizens. They insisted, that to give the privilege of arming to every man that chose to sail with our flag, was not only what they believed Congress never could reconcile it to themselves to do, upon principles of common morality, as well as policy, but was what never had been done by any other nation. Even letters of marque were granted with caution, and not without attention to distinct selection. "What, said a member, shall A. or B. or C. persons of whom we know nothing, because they can sign a bond with a security, range the ocean under the sanction of the flag of the union, to make war at will upon other nations, and exercise a power which the constitution declares shall be exclusively exercised by Congress?" They observed, that such power was too important to be put out of the hands of Congress, into those of

interested individuals, and ought not to be imparted to any set of men, however virtuous, much less to armed merchant vessels, cruising in pursuit of wealth and plunder. Were Congress to put that awful trust and power out of their own hands, the public peace would soon be broken, and our national security and happiness put at stake. In civil life on shore, it was difficult to restrain the passions of anger, avarice and hastiness of temper: At sea it was much more so, and every man who knew the character of sea-faring men, could infer from their general manners and temper, how much more necessary strong restraint was on the decks of ships at sea, than on the land.

Such were the grounds taken on both sides, in opposition to, and support of a bill, which passed by a very large majority.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1804.

DISTINGUISHED MARK OF APPROBATION

TO CAPTAIN STEPHEN DECATUR,

AND THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE INTREPID KETCH.

ON motion of Mr. J. Clay, the house agreed to a resolution previously passed, requesting the President to make to Captain S. DECATUR, a present of a sword; and the officers and crew of the Ketch Intrepid, two months pay, as an honourable testimonial of the sense which Congress entertain of their services in destroying the *Tripolitan frigate of forty-four guns*, in the harbour of Tripoli.

On motion of Mr. R. Griswold, the words "*late United States frigate*," which were at the end of the resolution, as it had passed, were struck out.

The motion was granted, but not without a division. The yeas and nays being demanded, there appeared for the motion 105

Against it 2

The nays were Mr. William Butler, and Mr. R. Stanford.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

Retrospective account of the TREMENDOUS STORM, *in October*, 1804.

THE tremendous storm upon the coasts of the southern states of the union, of which we made a concise record in our last number, if not surpassed, was at least equalled by one, which prevailed a short time after, upon the northern and eastern coasts. It commenced on the morning of Tuesday the 9th of October, on the shores of Massachusetts, and continued to blow with the most violent and unremitted fury until about five o'clock of the morning of the next day. At first it came from the south-south-east, it continued in that quarter for some time, and then shifted round to east, from which it blew, increasing in violence, till about three o'clock, when it abated for a few moments, and then veered on to north-east. Here it took its stand for a time, and blew with a degree of force and fury, unequalled in the memory of the oldest inhabitants, or in the annals of that state, but by one which took place in September, 1727, (seventy seven years before.) The violence and power of its course, may be collected from the effects it produced, and the ravages it made. Of the damage done it would be fruitless and unentertaining to attempt an accurate estimate, or a precise detail. From a few particulars however, our readers will be able to form a general conception of the immense havock which must have been made over the immense scope of country which felt its power. As in the former hurricane to the southward, the wharves and shipping were essentially damaged, and some small craft destroyed, and the several ports and shores were covered with wrecks.

The damage sustained in the interior of the town has been considerable; the trees suffered greatly, it is estimated that

nearly one third in the town were blown down, with several venerable elms, which had for about half a century stood the buffetings of every season ; many of the houses are unroofed and some of the new buildings are so much bent and twisted, that if they do not fall of themselves, they must be taken down ; among these is one belonging to Mr. Jonathan Loring, at West Boston, another belonging to Jonathan Mason, esq. and a large new brick building belonging to Daniel Davis, esq. The kitchen part of the house now occupied by Mr. Chappotin, in Summer street, was unroofed, the chimney blown down and much damage done to his furniture. The roof of the tower of the Chapel was wrenched off by the violence of the wind and carried about two hundred feet, before it fell. A large and new brick dwelling house, at West Boston, belonging to Ebenezer Eaton, has been greatly injured, and must, it is expected, be taken down. In stating this particular, we have to lament an occurrence which proved fatal to one of his family, and had well nigh effected the whole, in a similar manner. Mr. Eaton lived in an adjoining house; and was unconscious of the danger that hung over him; Mr. Jonathan Loring, who resided in the neighbourhood, apprised him of the insecurity of his family, while the gale continued, and after repeated and urgent entreaties prevailed on him to remove his wife and children ; in a few moments after, the battlement of the new house blew over and fell, with a large part of the upper story, directly upon the building which they had just left, and entirely demolished a principal part of it; burying in its ruins, every person left in the house; among whom was a servant woman by the name of Bennet, killed, and another woman, with a man and boy, badly wounded.

The North Church-steeple, which experienced the power of the gale on Tuesday night, fell on an adjoining house, and crushed it nearly to pieces. The family had previously left the house.

One of the western stages, in passing West Boston bridge, was upset by the force of the wind, and several of the passengers considerably hurt.

A boat of twenty-two tons, owned by Mr. Low, of this town, was sunk between Cambridge and Charlestown bridges, with 10,000 bricks on board; two men belonging to her were with great difficulty saved.

In Charlestown, considerable damage was sustained by the storm. The Baptist meeting-house was partly unroofed, and the spire of the reverend doctor Morse's meeting-house, very much bent; but being newly and strongly built, the steeple stood the gale. The new brick building in the United States navy yard, was so far injured, that it must be taken down, if it does not fall of itself; a large dwelling house, belonging to Mr. John Harris, and another to Mr. Bolton, were blown down; most of the brick yards were considerably injured, and a large quantity of the bricks destroyed. The shipping experienced no damage.

Gloucester, (Cape Ann) presented a continuance of the dreadful waste and destruction; near Fresh Water Cove, a Kennebeck sloop, loaded with rum, was entirely lost, with a lady passenger on board, the master and crew saved; a schooner belonging to Connecticut, loaded with corn, went entirely to pieces, but the people were saved; several others went ashore; six vessels cut away their masts, among them an English ship from Newfoundland; four or five others were driven out of the harbour, and it is supposed were lost, with their crews, three small fishing schooners were driven from Manchester Bay, and are probably lost.

The spire of Beverly meeting-house was blown down. and considerable damage done to many of the houses in that town. The shipping rode out the gale in safety. At Salem, many houses were injured, and many barns, trees, fences, &c. blown down; and several vessels got on shore. At Marblehead, 33 sail of vessels were driven on shore, among which were two brigs; and much damage

was done to buildings. At Cohasset, some injury was done to the buildings and many trees were blown down.

At Dedham, in the interior, the house of captain Dorse was partly unroofed, and it was supposed, on Wednesday, there were more than 150 fallen trees on the turnpike road. At Milton, several barns were blown down. At Quincy, three or four houses were unroofed, and above a dozen blown down. At Dighton, a house was blown down and other damage done. At Taunton, a large new house was blown down, and many trees destroyed, as at other places. At Danvers, the roof of the South meeting-house, was partly torn off; the Baptist meeting-house, at the new mills, was unroofed, one side blown in, and the pews ripped to pieces; and other damage in the town. A gentleman brought the information from Topsfield, that many cattle perished there in consequence of the severity of the storm; and almost every town had trees, parts of orchards, barns, &c. blown down. The chain of mountains running near Peterborough, Rindge, Lime, &c. were covered with snow; and in many towns adjacent, it was said to be from four inches to two and three feet deep. At Ashby, the hail was five inches deep. The Amherst stage was considerably impeded by drifts of hail.

At Providence, (Rhode Island) and its vicinity some trees were blown down, and others broken. On one farm in Rehoboth about eighty trees fell. Great havoc was made among the rail fences. Several vessels in the river were driven a shore, among them the ships Patterson and Susan. An unfinished brick house at the south part of the town was considerably injured, some barns and other buildings damaged, and a few chimnies blown down.

About Newport, (Rhode Island) a storm commenced in that town on the morning of Tuesday last, which though not very violent in the day, encreased by evening to the most furious gale we have experienced for many years. The wind varying from S. E. to N. E. and attended with

thunder and lightning, was so violent in the night, as to excite the apprehensions of the inhabitants for their safety. The ship Semiramis, completely fitted for sea, was driven from her moorings to the shore, but we believe without experiencing any damage. The hermaphrodite brig Jolly Robbin, King, of Providence, laden with fish and flour, and bound to the West Indies, was driven on shore on the Fort-Point and bilged. It is said her cargo is considerably damaged. Several vessels were driven on shore and much injured. Large trees, in various parts of the town, were torn up by the roots, by the violence of the wind. Fences were blown down, and the boards carried to a considerable distance.

In a word, this storm may be considered as a full match to the lately preceding hurricane; and both may be considered as standing high among those remarkable occurrences, which though we wish never to see it, though they interest in the recital, and which though it is our duty to record, we most sincerely hope never to have occasion to record again.

AMERICAN DECII.

Intelligence was on the 6th last month received by the secretary of the navy, from commodore Barron, that the fire ship, of the explosion of which, before Tripoli, an account had been previously given, had not been blown up by accident; but by means which will stand on record as an everlasting, proud monument of our national spirit. It appears, that the fire-ship had proceeded nearly to her destined position, where she was beset by two of the enemies gallies, which were sent to intercept her; that the crew either purposely allowed them to come on, or perhaps saw their approach too late to effect a retreat, and did themselves actually apply the match which blew her and them all up. The consequence of which was, the entire destruction of the gallies, containing one hundred men, about one hundred shells

thrown into the town, and so much damage and alarm occasioned, that the castle might have been taken, and the town sacked, by the landing of two hundred men. This may be put in honourable competition with the most heroic atchievements of Romans, in the best days of Rome.

The following extract, taken from a return of the naval office at Jamaica, is so proudly flattering to the commerce of the United States, that we think it worth a place in our domestic occurrences.

IMPORTED INTO THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA,

From the United States, from 30th Sept. 1803, to 13th Sept. 1804.

Corn, meal and flour, 77,299 barrels.

Bread, 16,119 bags, 6871 barrels, 4408 kegs.

Rice, 3624 tierces.

Fish, 2536 hogsheads, 16,597 barrels, 544 kegs, 3301 boxes, 297 quintals.

Beef, 12,408 barrels.

Pork, 18,634 barrels.

Butter, 5296 firkins.

Lumber, 7,162,116 feet.

Staves and Heading, 8,409,939.

Shingles, 12,981,907.

Tobacco, 29 casks.

Naval Stores, 1467 barrels.

Horses, mules, asses and horned cattle innumerable.

TONNAGE OF VESSELS TRADING TO JAMAICA.

From Great Britain and Ireland,	93,433
From America,	69,525

So that the trade to Jamaica, is little less than two thirds of the trade to that island from England, Ireland and Scotland.

Peter Kuhn, esq. of Philadelphia, was last month appointed by the President, American Consul for the Republic of Genoa.

The legislature of North Carolina, have passed an act, establishing a bank in the town of Wilmington, with a capital of 250,000 dollars.

By intelligence from London, of the 2d November last, it appears, that Sir George Rumbold, the British resident at Hamburgh, had, together with his papers, been seized by a party of two hundred French infantry, who surprised him at his house, about a mile from the city, and carried him off.

Mr. Nicholls, the British Consul there, took refuge in the house of Mr. Forbes, the American resident.

At a court of oyer and terminer and general goal delivery, held at New York, on the 8th of last month, William P. Van Ness, esq. was convicted of carrying a challenge from the Vice President, to the late general Alexander Hamilton, and of aiding and abetting in the duel which terminated in the death of the latter.

And on the 11th, Judge Nathaniel Pendleton, second to general Hamilton, was convicted of aiding and abetting in said duel.

Commodore Prebble, his secretary, and Mr. Morris, arrived at New York, on the 26th inst. from the Mediterranean, as passengers on board the United States frigate John Adams. Seven or eight Tripolitan prisoners were on board.

On the 20th instant, a destructive fire broke out in Baltimore, in the house of Mr. Harvey, Bowley's wharf. It could not be got under, till it had consumed five houses.

Doctor Lucker, of Louisville, Kentucky, was killed in a duel there by George Strother, esq.

REMARKABLE DEATHS.

On the 21st of December last, Mr. James Townsend, attorney at law, put an end to his existence. The following lines were found, left by him on his desk. "This night's my fatal time! By my imprudence, I have lost my good fame and reputation; my life shall be the forfeit. All young men beware how you indulge the ideas I did; and if I have any friends let them say, *alas! poor Townsend.*"

A Negro man named Jack, the property of colonel William Chambers, of Middleton township, Pennsylvania, died there last month, aged one hundred and sixteen years.

Died at New York, the well known Mr. Thomas Gardner. He had served his time to the taylor's trade, but by prudence, industry, and good fortune, acquired a real estate to the value of a million of dollars. His life is preparing for the press.

At Norfolk, in Virginia, a young gentleman, of the name of Cavan, dropped dead, in the very act of dancing a reel at a ball, in that town. Not a minute before, he was in as high spirits as he had ever been known. Events of this kind ought not to be forgotten; they forcibly appeal to the moral and religious sense, they teach us what fleeting shadows we are; and they remind us with terribly impressive circumstance of admonition, of that which it is wonderful we should ever forget. The uncertain duration of life, and its enjoyments.

How frail men, things! how momentary both
Fantastic chase of shadows hunting shades;
The gay, the busy, equal, though unlike
Equal in wisdom, differently wise!
Through flowing meadows, and through dreary wastes,
One bustling, and one DANCING INTO DEATH. YOUNG.

A melancholy accident happened last month at the Euhaws, South Carolina. Mr. James Heyward, the youngest son of the late William Heyward, esq. was out on a hunting party, and having leaned from his horse, with the muzzle of the gun in his hand, to strike with the but end of it a hound that was baying a hog, the piece went off, and the load passing through his neck, killed him on the spot.

Dost thou wrap thy soul
In soft security, because unknown
Which moment is commission'd to destroy?
In death's uncertainty thy danger lies.
Is death uncertain? Therefore thou be first;
First as a centinel, all eye, all ear,
All expectation of the coming foe!!

Died lately, in Canada, Ytyenti Fohi, aged 102; a native of China, brought to America in early youth. He is said to have descended from the race of the ancient Chinese Emperors; and being of strong powers of mind and body, instituted in Canada, a Society by the name of "ROUSTICOUCHE," in imitation of those of his own native country, and in Europe; several branches of which are now in existence in the United States. Some of the objects of these societies are to obtain and preserve the curiosities of nature, to forward the arts and sciences, and to practice Olympic games, &c. It was in the act of attempting to throw an iron spear, weighing six hundred pounds, at a mark twenty feet off. (and which he effected) that he came by his death, having produced a violent hermorrhage. The friends and acquaintances of the deceased will recall his many virtues and talents to remembrance with affection; and the Asiatic, European and American societies of Rousticouche, of many of which he was an honorary member, will hear of his death with deep regret.

Died in England, Mrs. Lewis. The circumstances of her death are worthy of notice. She dreamed that she met two men carrying a coffin, and enquiring whom it was for, they answered it was for her. The effect of this dream upon her mind, brought on a miscarriage, of which she died.

A Mr. Dennis Coorobee, of Ballindangle, near Attrenry, in Ireland, died there at one hundred and seventeen years of age. He was married seven times, (being 93 when married to the last) by whom he had 48 children; 236 grand children, 944 great grand children, and 25 great great grand children, his youngest son (by his wife) being 18. This is *prolification* (as Dennis Brulgruddery calls it) with a vengeance.

CHAPTER VI.

BIOGRAPHY.

MEMOIRS OF THE YOUNG ROSCIUS.

[Continued from page 48.]

THE fame of the young ROSCIUS, had, for some time reached the metropolis of Ireland, and Mr. JONES, the manager of the theatre in that city, having heard of the performance of that dramatic prodigy at Belfast, offered him an engagement on very advantageous terms. After some negociation, the particulars of an agreement were settled, by which he was to play nine nights, at the Theatre Royal, Crow street. As the young gentleman's talents and importance were now become manifest, Mr. BETTY very prudently resolved to contribute every means in his power, to bring forward and mature so rare a genius. With this view he solicited Mr. HOUGH to attend his son in his excursion to Dublin, as well as in all his future engagements; both for the purpose of continuing his instructions, and for taking the superintendance of his theatrical interests and conduct. Mr. HOUGH having conceived a strong attachment to the boy, as well as a sanguine hope of his future eminence, accepted the proposal, and immediately resigned his situation in the Belfast theatre. From that time he has directed his whole time and attention to his celebrated pupil, and their strong attachment to each other, is a proof that the appointment was mutually agreeable. On the nature of Mr. HOUGH's abilities as an instructor, the public have decided: And it is universally acknowledged that he deserves great credit for the care and judgment with which he has fulfilled his trust.

The people of Dublin were prepared to receive the young ROSCIUS, with the most liberal kindness, for the voice of fame

had preceded his arrival. But he had here to encounter a very different ordeal from that which he had recently undergone at Belfast. The city of Dublin, like that of Edinburgh, is the capital of an enlightened nation; the seat of an university; and of course, the natural confluence of the learned and polite from all parts of the kingdom. Each of these cities abounds with young men of independent spirit; of high education and talents, who exercise with rigour the prerogatives of these qualifications, and are determined to admit no spurious claims to excellence in any art or science. These *Arbitri Ellgantiarum* permit no one to coquette with the muses, who cannot make out some title to their favours, and defend their abodes from violation, with all the ardour of chivalry. The candidates for theatrical honours, or indeed any other honours, must therefore expect to have his pretensions weighed minutely in the balance of criticism, and if they should be found wanting, he must prepare to submit to the severest castigation. Any quarter given to ignorance or imbecility, would not fail to bring down on the critics themselves, the severest reprehension. Through the fiery trials of those two dread tribunals, this young hero passed, and came out like purified gold from the furnace. He did not indeed escape wholly untouched, but their investigation has established his fame on so firm a basis, that he may now bid defiance to the attacks of inferior critics.

His first appearance at Dublin, was on Monday, the 28th November, 1803, in his favourite part of young Norval. He was announced as "the young gentleman who had acquired the appellation of the Infant Roscius, being only twelve years old." The house was crouded with company of the first rank: And such was his reception in the character, that the play was repeated on his second night of performing, with increased attraction. The third night he played Frederick, in the comedy of Lover's Vows, in which he was, if possible, still more successful than before. His represen-

tation of that character, is generally admitted to be one of the most perfect performances of the modern stage. He played the whole nine nights of his engagement, to the most brilliant audiences, and with a great increase of reputation to himself, and of profit to the manager.

While he remained in Dublin, Mr. JONES was so sensible of his eminent talents, and of his importance, as an acquisition to the theatre, that he became very solicitous to secure to himself so valuable a treasure. He accordingly offered to engage him by articles, for a term of years, at a liberal and increasing salary, but Mr. BETTY, very judiciously, thought proper to decline the proposal.

Among the different lampoons which appeared against the young ROSCIUS, during his stay in Dublin, one only was entitled to notice. This was contained in a series of letters in Hudibrastic verse, addressed to the manager, and relating to the performers of the theatre. In it the players were treated with little ceremony, and among the rest, Master BETTY was treated with some severe animadversions. The principal charges brought against him, however, relate to his age and size; but the author's censure was chiefly directed against the manager for degrading the dignity of the stage, by introducing a child in the principal characters of the drama. The young gentleman's parents are treated with no less asperity, for suffering such a premature exhibition: this charge has frequently been made, and it certainly would be just, if his claims to public attention rested on the mere forwardness of his capacity, and on his uncommon merits as a child of twelve years old. But the pretensions of the young ROSCIUS required no such allowances, and demanded to be examined by another standard. His abilities, it was soon shewn, would stand by their own intrinsic weight, independent of the considerations and palliations which his age might suggest.

His engagement with Mr. JONES being completed, his friends were induced to accept an offer of playing six nights

at Cork, from Mr. PEROS, the manager of a respectable company of comedians in the south of Ireland. He opened with Hamlet, on the 31st December, and afterwards played Romeo, Douglas, and some other characters. The house was so intirely filled every night, that a great number of the inhabitants of Cork, and its neighbourhood could not possibly get an opportunity of seeing his performance. An agreement was therefore made with Mr. PEROS, to extend the engagement for three nights longer. That his power of attraction was beyond any thing ever witnessed in that country, will appear from the following circumstance. Besides Mr. PEROS' theatre in Cork, which was formerly occupied by Mr. P. ASTLEY, and adapted to his performances, there is another belonging to the Dublin manager. In this the Dublin company play regularly several months in the year, and it is of course accounted the principal theatre. The nightly receipts at this house, frequently, do not exceed ten pounds; yet it is an assured fact, that Mr. PEROS, during the performance of the young ROSCIUS, received upwards of one hundred pounds every night.

By this time the fame of his extraordinary success, had reached as far as Scotland, and he now received a proposal from Mr. JACKSON, the Edinburgh manager, to play a few nights in that city. The offer was accepted; but as Mr. JACKSON's season was then far advanced, it was agreed that he should first perform at Glasgow, the ensuing spring, and afterwards fulfil his engagement at Edinburgh. This interval enabled him, after playing nine nights at Cork, to accompany Mr. PEROS' company to Waterford, where he performed with as much encouragement from the inhabitants, and as much advantage to himself, as could have been anticipated.

His friends now thought it adviseable to begin their journey to the north, as the spring was approaching, and it was desirable to be in a convenient situation for the passage to Scotland. This long journey, almost from one extremity

of Ireland to the other, in the depth of winter, was extremely tedious and fatiguing. However, it was happily completed without any accident, and our hero once more joined his old friend Mr. ATKINS, at Londonderry, where it was agreed that he should play six nights, as the Glasgow theatre was not to open for some time. Having completed this engagement, with the same good fortune which had hitherto attended him, they set forward for the place of embarkation to Port-Patrick. Unfortunately, in their way to the coast, Mrs. BETTY was seized with a severe and dangerous illness, which obliged them to stop at an obscure village on the road. Here they were detained for more than five weeks, under the most disagreeable circumstances; the weather being very inclement, and scarcely any medical assistance to be procured. At the end of that time she recovered sufficient strength to go forwards, and at length, after many difficulties, and a most stormy passage across the channel, they arrived in safety at Glasgow.

The scene was now entirely changed. They had entered into a new kingdom, where the habits and manners of the people, differed considerably from those of the country they had left; and it was not known, but, that their taste for dramatic excellence might be equally different. Our hero's friends, who knew well the force of national passions and prejudices, were not entirely without apprehensions for the consequences of this charge. Mr. JACKSON, they knew, had been blamed, as well as ridiculed, for bringing him over; and the reports from Ireland respecting his admirable acting, had been treated in Scotland as chimerical and extravagant. His supposed excellencies had been attributed to national partiality, and to that ardent imagination for which the Irish have ever been celebrated. Mr. JACKSON, however, who knew that the genuine feelings of human nature, are universally the same, encouraged them to hope, and assured them that all would be well.

[*To be continued.*]